

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Bernd-Georg Pietras

Serial No.: 10/801,289

Confirmation No.: 3066

Filed: March 16, 2004

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD
FOR CONNECTING TUBULARS
USING A TOP DRIVE

MAIL STOP AMENDMENTS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Group Art Unit: 3672

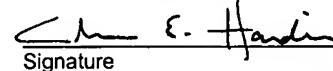
Examiner: Giovanna M. Collins

Customer No. 36735

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 21, 2005.

Chance E. Hardie
Typed Name



Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 20, 2004

In response to the Office Action dated October 20, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 20, 2005, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicant believes that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0028.C1/WBP, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper. **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper. **Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.